

1st 2001 VRU Executive Committee Meeting
January 13, 2001
Richmond, Virginia

Attendees:

Kris Kabza (President)
Bill Lucas (Vice President)
Greg Markham (Secretary)
David Chapman (Treasurer, RSV Representative)
Julie Comer (Collegiate Women's Coordinator)
Dan Bicehouse (Youth Coordinator)
Reyn Kinzey (USA/MARFU Representative)
Jeff Anderson (Newsletter Editor)
Carl Schmitt (Arrival after convening)

Absences:

Reid McClure (Men's Coordinator)
Kam Kelly (Women's Coordinator)
Rodney Hall (Disciplinary Chair)

The meeting was called to order by Kris Kabza.

AGM Reports, Kabza

Yearly Officer Reports due to Kris Thursday, January 25 (Thursday prior to AGM) for compilation.

The AGM format for officer reports will follow the format of last year, with the reports to be read by the body, and the officers answering questions.

VRU Appointed Positions, Kabza

Appointed positions are reviewed every two years.

Current appointees were enumerated. Kris took an action item to make sure all appointees were willing to continue.

A side discussion on Select Side Coaching Positions Ensued:

Kizney: Looking ahead, Men's Select Side programs at the USARFU Level will be scrapped due to waning interest.

MARFU Men's Select Side programs may be scrapped

Collegiate Men will continue

Women's programs will continue under some form

Need to compile the definitive list of MARFU and VRU positions to be filled. Compilation should be completed prior to the AGM. Action item: Greg

VRU Election Ties, Kabza

The EC determined that the method for a tie-breaker shall be the President's vote. The president must therefore abstain from all voting matters before the VRU voting body.

Online Forum, Chapman

Multiple forum areas for wide discussion are now available online. This should not yet be released for general use, so moderated discussions only will be hosted.

Online Directory, Markham

Bob Underwood continues to maintain the online directory. Greg requested an upload area at the VRU website, so that the Secretary might have direct control of the directory. Some discussion of the current capabilities and difficulties of the current setup ensued. David took an action item to set up an upload area for the Secretary. The approach will be to keep Bob's system intact and up until Greg has had a chance to revise, at which time David will change all the website pointers to the new area.

Reyn Kizney asked for the possibility of a listserver, so that emailing groups might be easier. Greg offered to compile these from his information, if Reyn would provide input.

Handbook Updates, Chapman

Fewer printed copies will be made, reducing costs. The handbook will be available in PDF format at the VRU Website. Errata will be posted online as well. Errata shall be submitted to David.

VRU Budget, Chapman

In 2000, the VRU received more money than budgeted. This included funds from accounts in arrears. Some expenditures were also reduced.

Grants for Select Side Players are a new budget line item.

Suggestions for use of extra 2000 funds: Select Side Jerseys, Reimburse 2000 Select Side Players, Refund to clubs in the form of reduced dues, Pay for Coaching Clinics, Youth rugby balls, A one-time Grant for Youth Rugby programs.

A \$1000 Grant to Youth Rugby passed unanimously

The purchase of Select Side Jerseys for Collegiate Men passed without opposition (1 abstention)

The reimbursement of the cost for one Level I or Level III coaching clinic per club passed unanimously

The EC voted unanimously to recommend the resultant budget to the voting members at the AGM

Carl will present the Don Bridges fund to the members at the AGM, and call for contributions.

The Opportunities fund is a capital investment to be maintained in cash accounts. No securities.

CIPP Registration, Chapman

Presentation of CIPP Numbers from USA Rugby was made along with a comparison of TU's

Scheduling, Chapman

Make sure ALL clubs adhere to the Feb 1 deadline. Will begin to assign referees on February 1. Will accept additional match requests after assignments have been made, Feb 2. Additional Match Requests should be directed to the appropriate coordinator first.

Div I/II Discussion, Kabza

No USA Guidelines are present

Div III will be added to collegiate mens. Promotion/Relegation in the men's division will be upon written request and approval.

Some discussion occurred about determining appropriate division. No one had a clear philosophy, and the group felt that no blanketing philosophy could be made. Self-determination for each club is the best we can do at this point.

Ed & Sandy Lee Discussion, Kabza

No requirement from the bidders for a donation to the Don Bridges fund.

Kris asked that everyone consider restructuring the seedings of E&SL.

There was no objection to charging Women's Clubs to a bit over 1/3 regular fees to cover facilities, etc.

Propose to move the Women's Championship on Saturday, maybe later in the day. Proposed to move the Men's championship to earlier on Sunday morning. Collegiate championships have better attendance and following and should be the Sunday marquee

Julie took an action item to present the idea of a Saturday Championship Match to the Blue Ridge Women.

Women's Clubs

Blacksburg is considered as on hiatus, and has grace period (but undefined) to resume operation as a viable rugby entity within the union.

College Men's Clubs, Schmitt

Averett is a question mark at this point.

Christopher-Newport University was previously a VRU Club. This is a new group - must reapply as an associate member, and get the dues break.

Youth Programs, Bicehouse

Non-contact youth clinic, Feb 18th, \$5.

Good contacts for youth rugby - school systems and teachers

MARFU Collegiate Tournament, Kabza

MARFU has accepted Roanoke's Bid to host MARFU Collegiate Tournament, March 31 - April

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Competing will be 8 Div I Men, 4 Div II Men, 4 Div I Women, 4 Div II Women

MARFU Select Side Tournament, Kabza

Kris withdrew MWC as host to the MARFU collegiate select side tournaments

Carl committed United to host, 3 weekends after Ed & Sandy Lee 2001

Commonwealth Games, Kabza

Roanoke is free to set format and to host this event as they see fit. The VRU will leave this in Roanoke's capable hands

Other Events

Norfolk is hosting MARFU 7's championships. There are still two open seeds.

Newsletter, Anderson

Suggestion to make newsletter all electronic. Hard copies only go to clubs and old boys clubs, suggest just emailing this as well

Some discussion of the content was made.

Jeff will present the EC recommendation of going all electronic to the body of the AGM for a vote.

Referee's Report, Chapman

David will present new law interpretations at the AGM for the RSV

Coaching Clinic, Schmitt

Level I and Level III Coaching Clinics will be held in Richmond in the last weekend of August

Adjourn